



Save Maine's Native Fish Species !



Stop Disastrous Illegal Fish Stocking!

Maine waters have been hit by an epidemic of illegal fish stockings, with disastrous consequences for our native species - especially brook trout and landlocked salmon.

White perch are now in Moosehead Lake, bass in the Rapid River, crappie and pike in landlocked salmon waters.



Smallmouth Bass



Largemouth Bass



White Perch

All these predatory fish eat other species and destroy native fisheries.

Introduction of any fish into any Maine waters without a permit from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is a Class E crime, punishable by fines up to \$10,000!

Call Operation Game Thief (1-800-253-7887) to report illegal introductions.



Report any exotic species to a DIFW fisheries biologist (207-287-8000)



Would you stock a shark in your fish bowl?

Of course not!

But that's just what's happening in hundreds of Maine waters where illegally stocked exotic species are depleting our native fisheries.

"For those of us who have worked for years to produce a quality trout fishery - not to mention the anglers who cherish fishing for salmon and trout - it is discouraging to witness the demise of these native fisheries as the result of illegal fish introductions by irresponsible individuals."

DIF&W Regional Fisheries Biologist
Forrest Bonney

"The problem lies not just with 'exotic' species (largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, black crappie, blue gills, northern pike, white catfish, etc.), but also unauthorized introductions of 'native' species (cusk, golden shiner, smelt, white perch, etc.). The rate of new illegal introductions is astonishing.

Every summer while conducting routine fisheries assessments, we accidentally encounter new illegal introductions, and we're only sampling a small number of waters each year. These species are serious competitors with our indigenous trout and salmon, and have diminished our ability to maintain healthy populations of desirable forage, like smelt."

DIF&W Assistant Regional Fisheries Biologist
Francis Brautigam



Yellow Perch



Crappie



Pike